

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

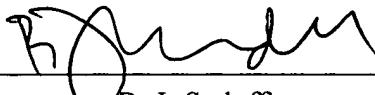
Claims 1-23 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 24-55 have been added.

Support for the claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. A copy of the Notice of October 12, 2000, is attached. An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:rdw
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4091
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100